

AMENDMENTSIN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, prior to line 1, please insert "This is a United States national stage application based on International Application No. PCT/IT97/00040, filed February 27, 1997, which claims priority to Italian Patent Application Nos. RM96A000136, filed February 28, 1996 and RM96A000247, filed June 14, 1996. - -.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1, 6 and insert, in their place, the following new claims:

7. (new) A method of treating viral hepatitis in a subject comprising administering, to the subject, an oral liquid formulation of natural human α -interferon at a daily dosage of between 100 IU and 500 IU.

8. (new) A method of treating a subject for a disease selected from the group consisting of neoplasia and immunologic disease comprising administering, to the subject, an oral liquid formulation of natural human α -interferon at a daily dosage of between 100 IU and 500 IU.

9. (new) The method of claim 7 wherein the human α -interferon is obtained from a lymphoblastoid cell culture.